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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending July 16, 2006

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This report can be found on the Internet at

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp

Fair Week for Field Work: Farmers found last week to be a hit and miss game for field work. Although 4 days were suitable for fieldwork, the rain between those days made it a little challenging to make hay. Farmers are in the midst of harvest time for small grains, as the oat crop has begun to be harvested, in addition to the wheat and barley. The wheat crop remains in poor condition. Farmers are reporting high yields, but the quality has made it difficult for some to sell the wheat commercially. Hay making seems to be right on pace with the last several years, as third cutting alfalfa began last week. Corn continues to do well, although several farmers report that the height range is drastic between fields. Other than the wheat, most crops are doing well so far. Principal farm activities included making hay, repairing equipment, harvesting wheat, barley, and peaches, picking sweet corn, and spreading manure.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 16, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	1	83	16

Crops: Many farmers can now get lost in their corn fields. Corn height is just shy of 6 feet, reported at 71 inches. This is over a foot above both last year's figure and the 5-year average. Thirty-eight percent of the corn is now in the silk stage, which is also ahead of normal. Corn condition has remained steady for the past several weeks, as 75 percent of the crop is rated in good or excellent condition. Similar to corn, the soybean condition has also remained fairly stagnant from last week. Eighty percent of the crop is in good or excellent condition. Almost all of the wheat crop is ripe, at 98 percent. Farmers reaped an additional 30 percent of the crop last week, so 71 percent of the wheat acreage is now off the fields. Harvesting is 14 percent ahead of the 5-year average. Wheat condition continues to decline as farmers harvest the crop. Currently, 36 percent of the crop is in poor condition. Farmers hope to get the rest of the wheat harvested before too much more damage is done. The barley crop is almost completed for the year. Ninety-two percent of the crop is harvested, the same as last year and one percent ahead of the normal. Oat harvesting began last week. Ninety-six percent of the crop is headed, 3 percent ahead of the 5-year average. Forty-four percent of the crop is yellow, 15 percent is ripe, and 5 percent is harvested. All of these figures are slightly behind the 5-year average. However, harvesting is 2 percent ahead of last year at this time. Oat condition is looking well, as eighty-two percent of the crop is reported to be in good or excellent condition. Hopefully, this good condition will continue throughout harvesting. Farmers now have 58 percent of the second cutting alfalfa harvested, the same as the 5-year average. Seven percent of the third cutting has been mowed, which is behind last year by 2 percent. Little progress was made with timothy hay last week. Currently, 91 percent of the first cutting and 13 percent of the second cutting has been made. Both figures are within 2 percent of the normal. Alfalfa and timothy/clover stand conditions both improved last week. Eighty-four percent of the alfalfa and 60 percent of the timothy standing is in either good or excellent condition. The quality of hay made has slightly improved from the previous week, with last week's conditions reported as 6

percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 35 percent good, and 12 percent excellent.

Let the peach harvesting begin! Unfortunately, as peaches are being picked, producers are seeing that peach condition is not as good as was expected. Seventy-nine percent of the peaches are in good or excellent condition, with the remaining peaches in fair condition. So far, 11 percent of the peaches have been harvested. Apple condition has remained unchanged from the previous week, with all of the apples in either good or excellent condition.

Livestock: Pasture condition has declined this week. Farmers are still reporting some problems with wet spots in pastures. Pasture condition was reported as the following: 5 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 5 percent excellent.

U.S. as of July 11, 2006: Warm, mostly dry weather across the western Corn Belt and northern Great Plains caused soil moisture levels to decrease, bringing crop conditions down as well. Below-normal temperatures prevailed in the central Corn Belt, southern Great Plains, Mississippi Delta, and southern and middle Atlantic Coast States. Scattered showers also dotted the Corn Belt. The weather condition was favorable for silking corn and blooming soybeans, except in drought-affected areas of the western Corn Belt.

Corn: Twenty-three percent of the acreage was at or beyond the silking stage, 1 percentage point behind last year but 3 points ahead of normal. Progress was ahead of normal in most states but trailed behind in the eastern Corn Belt. Meanwhile, condition of the crop declined due to dry conditions in the Corn Belt and Great Plains.

Soybeans: Blooming advanced to 38 percent, 1 point behind last year but 10 points ahead of normal. With the exception of the eastern Corn Belt, the crop progressed ahead of normal in most other states. Pods were being set on 7 percent of the acreage, compared with 5 percent last year and 4 percent for the 5-year average. The crop was most advanced in the Mississippi Delta. Crop condition deteriorated as dry weather decreased soil moisture levels.

Winter Wheat: Producers had reaped 72 percent of their crop, 4 points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of normal. Progress was ahead of normal in most states but trailed behind normal in the Ohio Valley and Pacific Northwest.

Small Grains: Barley heading advanced to 77 percent, compared with 70 percent last year and 66 percent for the 5-year average. Development trailed behind normal in the Pacific Northwest but exceeded the normal pace elsewhere. Crop condition declined as hot, dry conditions sapped soil moisture.

Ninety-five percent of the Nation's oat crop was at or beyond the heading stage, 4 points ahead of last year and 7 points ahead of normal. Heading was at or near 100 percent in all states, except North Dakota and Pennsylvania. However, progress was still at or ahead of normal in all states. Growers had harvested 11 percent of their acreage, compared with 9 percent last year and 10 percent for the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 16, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 16, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	87	59	74	4	1.22	4	11.36	-1.22	48	1,230	135	2,171
Franklin	87	59	74	4	3.34	5	16.56	1.99	50	1,161	110	2,143
Meadville	84	62	73	5	1.54	4	13.21	-0.73	47	1,145	192	2,100
Mercer	86	60	73	4	3.69	5	19.36	5.32	51	1,086	41	2,056
Springboro	85	54	71	0	2.98	4	18.45	6.01	51	1,009	-101	1,927
Warren	88	57	72	3	2.75	5	18.16	3.56	50	1,061	42	2,008
North Central												
Bradford Region	83	54	69	4	1.75	5	14.25	-0.58	51	843	119	1,729
Emporium	85	58	72	7	2.05	5	18.13	3.16	52	1,096	277	2,080
Kane	84	53	68	4	2.52	4	14.96	0.07	44	744	28	1,622
Laporte	81	58	70	-1	2.40	6	20.23	6.26	56	939	-109	1,866
Lock Haven	89	59	75	4	1.75	6	16.42	2.88	47	1,281	155	2,296
Port Allegany	86	55	70	5	2.10	4	13.49	-0.87	46	906	83	1,817
Renovo	88	55	72	2	2.71	6	15.43	1.89	53	1,206	80	2,214
Ridgway	86	54	70	4	2.65	5	15.93	0.96	53	907	88	1,844
Stevenson Dam	88	58	74	8	2.40	6	13.37	-1.60	46	1,160	341	2,162
Towanda	89	57	74	5	2.11	5	13.45	1.88	49	1,185	124	2,154
Wellsboro	83	56	69	4	1.83	6	13.38	1.72	48	902	140	1,812
Williamsport	89	59	76	5	1.25	5	13.90	0.34	48	1,390	134	2,405
Northeast												
Hawley	88	55	72	4	0.37	3	21.81	8.84	39	1,029	149	1,961
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	87	58	74	3	1.04	4	15.52	2.88	45	1,295	105	2,288
Susquehanna	87	58	72	6	1.34	5	21.62	7.76	55	1,070	229	2,017
West Central												
Butler	87	58	73	4	1.67	5	15.92	2.11	49	1,119	24	2,112
New Castle	89	61	75	5	2.60	4	16.70	3.96	48	1,267	163	2,271
Slippery Rock	91	62	74	6	1.56	4	19.06	5.54	55	1,170	178	2,163
Central												
Altoona/Blair	85	57	73	3	0.71	4	11.58	-1.14	44	1,235	39	2,244
DuBois	84	60	72	3	2.13	5	16.35	2.26	56	1,057	36	2,017
Lewistown	89	60	75	3	0.57	4	15.58	2.00	45	1,354	37	2,377
Middletown	89	62	78	3	0.52	2	17.11	3.84	39	1,652	154	2,692
Prince Gallitzi	86	54	71	3	1.45	4	16.13	0.19	46	966	32	1,924
Selinsgrove	90	59	75	4	0.48	5	17.93	4.30	46	1,323	102	2,338
State College	87	62	75	4	1.12	5	12.19	-0.35	43	1,324	146	2,344
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	90	59	76	3	2.08	3	18.16	4.61	46	1,486	126	2,510
Lehighton	87	58	73	-1	0.69	5	20.23	6.62	53	1,314	13	2,319
Matamoras	88	56	73	2	0.21	3	16.69	2.32	50	1,135	-37	2,100
Mt_Pocono	84	56	71	6	1.23	5	21.08	6.06	53	1,006	248	1,945
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	85	62	75	4	0.93	3	13.62	0.36	49	1,400	198	2,429
Derry	87	58	73	4	1.42	5	16.80	3.30	46	1,145	31	2,142
Myersdale	83	51	69	-2	1.09	4	14.92	0.04	52	813	-273	1,740
Mount Pleasant	86	56	73	5	0.52	4	15.27	-0.02	48	1,120	141	2,112
Pittsburgh Intl	86	63	74	3	1.28	3	13.10	0.66	46	1,345	79	2,362
Connellsville	88	62	75	3	1.36	4	15.21	0.60	58	1,318	21	2,334
Waynesburg	87	58	74	4	1.07	4	11.97	-1.48	46	1,185	22	2,195
South Central												
Biglerville	90	59	76	2	0.85	5	18.10	5.87	46	1,477	1	2,514
Everett	82	55	70	-3	1.03	4	13.95	1.80	49	938	-228	1,945
Hanover	89	64	77	3	1.08	2	14.91	2.68	45	1,472	-4	2,503
Harrisburg_AP	90	62	78	3	0.94	4	16.53	3.26	45	1,605	100	2,645
South Mountain	84	58	72	2	0.88	3	21.73	9.01	47	1,118	-71	2,115
York	89	58	77	3	0.43	2	12.77	-0.79	45	1,461	-11	2,486
Southeast												
Green Lane	89	62	77	4	2.30	2	22.00	8.80	45	1,506	218	2,534
Hamburg	90	61	77	5	0.82	3	19.78	3.80	51	1,545	381	2,571
West_Chester	92	58	76	3	0.35	2	18.41	3.53	40	1,394	-65	2,416
Lancaster	88	62	77	3	0.88	4	21.81	8.05	47	1,542	179	2,576
Neshaminy Falls	90	61	76	3	0.10	2	18.59	3.37	42	1,410	50	2,440
New Holland	90	65	77	4	0.92	4	15.12	1.36	46	1,551	188	2,581
Philadelphia	91	67	79	4	0.11	2	15.94	2.61	36	1,831	246	2,888
Philadelphia NE	91	67	80	4	0.11	3	16.84	3.51	42	1,813	228	2,865
Reading	90	61	78	5	1.29	3	17.14	2.41	42	1,596	265	2,627
Valley Forge Na	96	61	78	3	2.25	2	20.52	6.73	43	1,537	-13	2,569
Willow Grove	89	63	78	5	0.01	1	15.64	0.42	40	1,628	268	2,670

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - Adams County has been hot and humid this past week. Some parts of the county received 1.5 inches of rain on Thursday, where other parts did not receive any. Showers were received throughout some evenings, but rainfall was not significant.

Corn is in tassel and is growing taller. The moisture the other week and these hot and humid days are really helping the corn. Some corn fields did not get a good start and still do not look too good. Soybeans are growing and some soybeans are still being double cropped after wheat and barley. Wheat continues to be harvested with the majority going for feed wheat. The producers are reporting a new test this year to test sugar content and reducing their price for their wheat also. Oats continue to grow and head. Haymaking is continuing and forecasts of rain makes it interesting as to when will be the right time to mow. It's been a gambling game for the farmers for haymaking.

Apples and peaches continue to do well. Peaches are starting to be harvested now. Cherry harvest has been completed for the year. Most tart cherry growers are reporting a good crop. There were some quality issues once they got them to the processors but they had the tonnage. Vegetables are starting to be harvested in truck patches.

Overall, Adams County's crops are looking good.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - The week was spent getting caught up on hay making and finishing the wheat harvest. Humid weather slowed the hay making but quality was good. Wheat quality was better than expected but was affected by the delay in harvest. Early freestone peaches should be starting by the end of the month and an excellent crop is expected. Apples are still doing fine. We will have to wait and see if the forecasted hot weather has any affect on the corn pollination.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - There are many reports of excellent wheat yields; some saying it's the best yield ever on their farms. However, quality is a problem. A lot of wheat is being rejected at the flour mills and is instead going to feed, dramatically reducing profit. Corn has really responded to hot, humid weather and is growing rapidly. Stands are spotty; some excellent, some quite poor. Grass hay is being made very late and of questionable feed quality.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - A few storms passed through the county making it difficult to make hay and harvest crops. The corn is growing, potatoes are in blossom, and wheat and barley are being harvested. Some of the wheat fields look black. Farmers are trying to harvest between the rains.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Some thunder showers during the week resulted in 1 inch of additional rainfall. Crops are showing good recovery from the dry weeks of May and June.

Wheat harvest will occur with warm dry days of the coming week.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - The corn is really taking off. Soybeans are sprayed so we no longer have weed and grass pressuring. We have potential for a good crop.

CRAWFORD COUNTY Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Off and on rain showers and storms made this week a challenge to get field work done. Fields were saturated in the beginning of the week, which delayed mowing. Another storm came through parts of the county on Friday, which set field work back another day. The weekend heat has been good for drying; but very uncomfortable for the producer.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Many farmers are having trouble harvesting first crop hay. The corn crop is greatly varied in height throughout the counties.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel Linde - Another 1 inch of rain yesterday. Thank goodness more farmers are switching to no till. Pastures are still growing nicely this summer. It's real tough to make dry hay this week.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - More rain this past week. A LOT of hay was rained on Saturday. The 30 percent chance of rain turned into a flash flood, with some areas receiving over 2 inches. There is still 1st cutting timothy to make. The corn is silking and beans are flowering. Sweet corn is now in.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - We have had over two inches of rain during the week. Under normal conditions, that would be a welcome amount; however, with the heavy rains the previous weeks, it was a lot. The wheat is being harvested with mixed quality. Some is in fine condition while others have a significant number of sprouted kernels. It was a difficult week to make quality dry hay, and a few fields are showing signs of leafhopper damage. Many of the early planted corn fields are beginning to come into tassel and the early soybeans are beginning to blossom. The growth rate the past several weeks has been unbelievable.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS) - There is a great deal of variation in the corn crop. Some fields are nearly chest high while other are about knee high. Some corn also has a very light green color and shows spotty germination.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - The warm and humid conditions made for another excellent growing week and another poor harvest week. Wheat is ripening and some dry weather is needed for a timely harvest. Hay harvest continues to be a challenge. Local sweet corn is now available at most roadside stands.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 16, 2006

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	38	31	23
Corn average height, inches	71	58	52
Barley, harvested	92	92	91
Wheat, ripe	98	96	85
Wheat, harvested	71	53	55
Oats, heading or headed	96	96	93
Oats, turning yellow	44	53	48
Oats, ripe	15	12	22
Oats, harvested	5	3	6
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	58	75	58
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	7	9	10
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	91	95	89
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	13	19	15
Peaches, harvested	11	10	14

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 16, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	2	4	19	39	36
Wheat	11	25	21	38	5
Oats	0	3	15	69	13
Soybeans	1	2	17	58	22
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	2	14	64	20
Timothy clover stand	1	4	35	50	10
Quality of hay made	6	10	37	35	12
Pasture	5	7	20	63	5
Peaches	0	0	21	39	40
Apples	0	0	0	50	50

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